Abstract

5   A lightweight global distribution mechanism distributes packages within a
distributed system. The packages may hold any type of content and may hold contents
such as patches, programs, documents or files. The distribution mechanism is
lightweight in that it incurs minimal computational and memory overhead. With the
distribution mechanism, a package index that identifies packages for installation is
10   stored at a publishing master. Client systems may access and analyze the package index
to determine which packages to install. The client systems may hold subscription lists
that identify the packages to which the clients subscribe. The packages need not be
stored at the publishing master but rather may be stored at separate repositories.